Metro talks money

- Pros and Cons of the low loonie
- How to make a saving strategy
- Finding gold in budget goals

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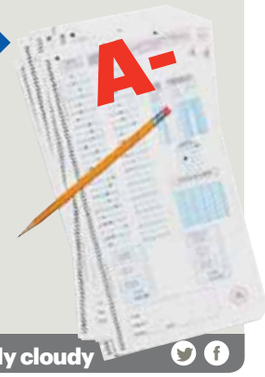

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016 High -2°C/Low -6°C Mainly cloudy

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

RIDEAU GETS ROLLING

Skaters (finally) flock to Skateway after mild weather delays opening

metroNEWS

Liberals taking Bill C-59 to task

LABOUR

Feds plan to repeal contentious section, says senior official

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Repealing Conservative legislation on collective bargaining will be one of the Liberal government's "first orders of business," according to a senior Treasury Board official.

The commitment to repeal the section of Bill C-59 is a sign of improved labour relations between the federal government and public sector unions with both sides soon returning to the bargaining table, one union head says.

"This government remains committed to bargaining in good faith with Canada's federal public sector," Carl Trottier, an associate assistant deputy minister at Treasury Board, said in a Jan. 21 email to public service unions.

"To this end, this government intends to make the repeal of C-59 one of their first orders of business."

Section 20 of the law, which the then-Conservative government enacted last June, gives the federal government the power to bypass collective bargaining and unilaterally impose a new disability and sick leave regime.

Public sector unions decried the move as unconstitutional and launched a court challenge.

The Liberals had committed to bargaining in good faith with public sector unions, but had not specifically committed to repealing Section 20.

The government has also said it won't exercise the powers in the legislation before repealing it.

"It's a step in a positive direction," said Debi Daviau, president of the Professional Institute of Public Servants of Canada.

"It's really important because you can't negotiate with a pre-supposed notion of where you're going to end up," she added.

However, Daviau said she hopes the government will repeal aspects of Bill C-4, another Conservative government bill that changed rules on the right to strike, arbitration access, and rules surrounding essential services.

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metro NEW

I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters, OK?
World

Your essential daily news

Monday, January 25, 2016

Para Transpo customers to protest collection letters

TRANSIT

Organizers also want to draw attention to safety issues

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

A Para Transpo protest will expand to include concern over hundreds of bill collection letters that arrived in customers' mailboxes last week.

Accessibility advocate Catherine Gardner is organizing a rally this Wednesday to protest safety issues on the new Para Transpo buses that will replace the city's fleet this spring.

But she's now asking protesters to also bring their collection letters, which tell clients to pay outstanding fees as low as $0.85 by March 1 or risk suspension from the service.

"I'm just hoping people can bring the letters out so people can see they're not alone in this," Gardner said.

About 1,300 collection notices were mailed out last week in hopes of recovering $20,000 in outstanding tabs, according to OC Transpo staff.

Gardner got a letter asking her to pay $4.15, but she said she doesn't know when she would have incurred such a fee. She buys a monthly pass and doesn't remember adding top-up costs to her account.

"Until they tell me exactly when I owe this money from, I'm not going to pay it," she said.

She'd like OC Transpo to waive the outstanding fees for people with bills under $10. The transit operator then needs to "start off fresh" with a system that doesn't let customers ride on credit, she said — especially those who got bills for hundreds of dollars.

"Why did Para let them build up that much?" she asked.

The protest, which will run from 2 to 4 p.m. at city hall this Wednesday, will mostly focus on safety issues in the new bus fleet, Gardner said, including a steep climb to board the low-floor bus, a blocked emergency exit, passengers left to dangle their feet off high benches, and sharp objects and bolts in the way of passengers' legs.

Gardner, who uses a wheelchair or a walker, was one of 15 clients who toured two buses in 2013 when OC Transpo was deciding what to buy. She told staff then that the ramp was too steep unless it was placed on a curb.

OC Transpo's Troy Charter said feedback for the 15 new buses already in service has been "very positive." Several minor concerns were addressed through an earlier pilot program, he added.

Passengers especially like the air suspension in the new buses, which offer a smoother ride, Charter said.

Para Transpo driver Nick Cummings, left, and transit operations assistant manager Troy Charter show off the new accessible service buses. Customers will rally on Wednesday against the new buses, which they say are hard to board because of the steep ramp. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

SAFETY

O-Train 'threat' found

Transport Canada says a safety "threat" exists on the O-Train after operators ran stop signals twice in two months in 2015.

According to a Transport Canada letter sent last week, on Nov. 18 a southbound O-Train blew through a stop signal where the Trillium line intersects with VIA Rail south of Walkey Road.

On Dec. 24, another train failed to stop in time at the Gladstone passing tracks near Bayview station.

No one was injured and no property was damaged in either case.

Rail safety inspector Mike Melville also found the O-Train is applying emergency brakes routinely — at least once a week.

Melville said that's distracting drivers and is "compromising safe operating practices." The Dec. 24 breach occurred because the e-brakes had compromised the driver's "situational awareness," Melville wrote.

City manager Kent Kirkpatrick said the O-Train has an automated emergency braking system that kicks in when required. O-Train managers were already reviewing e-brake procedures and directives before the federal ministry's letter arrived, he added.

Melville gave the city until Feb. 5 to tell Transport Canada how it will fix the problem.

Kirkpatrick said staff will respond by then.

The Nov. 18 incident was the first of its kind in the O-Train's 14-year history, Kirkpatrick said.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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For more info. visit www.OttawaHealthandWellnessExpo.com

5 THINGS TO WATCH FOR IN OTTAWA THIS WEEK

The most-anticipated development of the year (and it's only the beginning of 2016) will be unveiled this week. Let's start with that.

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

1 LeBreton Flats

We get a peek at the two development proposals for the 9.3 hectares of land (and possibly an additional 12.3 hectares) west of Ottawa on Tuesday. Rendez Vous LeBreton Group, led by Sens ownership group Senators Sports and Entertainment, is pitching an NHL-sized arena for LeBreton Flats. According to several media reports, competing bidder DCDLS (formerly Devore Group), is also pitching an arena and both developers have library pitches.

2 Retirement home

The boringly-named committee of adjustment will consider a nine-storey retirement home for the corner of Parkdale and Wellington. Developer Taggart needs a mere 2.55 metres over the zoning limit for approval. The committee of adjustment (God, really though, we're falling asleep just reading the name) is not to be confused with council. In theory, it's an independent, non-political group that deals with minor variances, like small building setbacks and things of that nature.

3 Condo developments

A pair of condo developments — that is, four towers between two sites — will be before the planning committee on Tuesday. A 23-storey condo and 27-storey hotel are slated for Bay and Sparks streets, while two 25-storey towers are in the works for Chapel Street in Lowertown.

5 Pedestrian pathway

As one pedestrian pathway opens in Kitchissippi, another closes. That's due to the ongoing light rail construction near Scott Street, which may confuse your walk to work. Stay with us here: Last week, Coun. Jeff Leiper hired someone to point pedestrians to a new walkway north of the Bayview Station. That's because a second multi-use pathway was still in the works (and overdue), which runs behind the Tom Brown arena and under a bridge to the O-Train. That second pathway will open by the end of the month. But now a portion of the northern pathway will close. Confused yet? Leiper may need to hire another helper for this one.

4 Relocating Stittsville barn

Richcraft will once again make the case for moving a 19th century Stittsville barn to the touristy Saunders Farm. The city's built heritage sub-committee already said no to dismantling the Bradley/Craig farmstead and rebuilding it. Staff are also against the plan. If the planning committee overturns the decision on Tuesday, it will still need council's approval.

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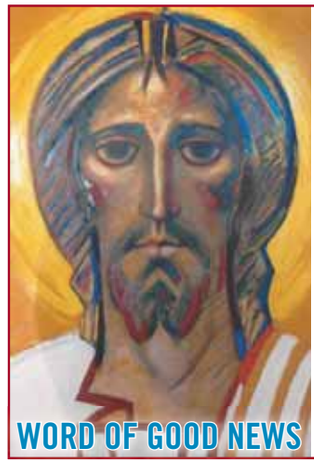

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From left: **Jillian Mood, Lindsay Blenkhorn and Jason Nuyens are three Ottawa video-game pros** who want to mentor young women interested in gaming. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Group aims to empower girls

DEVELOPMENT

Classes offered to aspiring female game-makers

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

It's go time for a group of Ottawa video game professionals aiming to get teen girls involved in the industry.

The group launched tech non-profit Girl Force this weekend and are planning free game development classes, networking meet-ups and insider presentations to encourage would-be game makers.

"There's been a lot of press about women not being in the industry, but we thought we should be doing something to help with that," said founder Jillian Mood, who works for the International Game Developers Association (IGDA) and has been in the industry for five years. Mood said being at the heart of the industry made clear the challenges women face working in a sector that is still very male-dominated.

In 2014, the IGDA found that 76 per cent of the gaming industry workforce was male. Further research from Harvard showed that of the women working in the industry, 56 per cent leave by mid-career.

Women play games — 48 per cent of gamers are women, whether on their smartphone or at home on consoles — but they also want to make their own.

"A lot of people have that interest, but they might be intimidated thinking about programming and developing," she said.

"Our goal is if you have the interest we'll give you the tools and the space to learn more."

Similar teaching programs already exist in Montreal and Toronto, but Mood said the group is excited to launch in Ottawa because of the city's own booming game industry. The group is still deciding on exact times for the classes, but the plan is to start offering volunteer-led evening classes in the spring.

While the program is aimed at girls aged 15 and 16 before they pick their career path, there's no age limit to getting involved.

"We want to be really inclusive," said Mood. "If people reach out, we don't want to turn them away."

ADAWE CROSSING

Vehicle prompts barrier discussion

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

The newly-opened Adawe Crossing had an unwelcome visitor over the Christmas holidays that's prompting city staff to consider barriers at the foot of the pedestrian footbridge.

According to one resident's tweet, a small car drove over the path connecting Overbrook and Sandy Hill several weeks after it opened on Dec. 4.

No one was injured and the car didn't do any damage, but Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury said staff are looking at ways to stop the incident from happening again. Whether that's with a strategically placed boulder or a flexible post remains to be seen, he said.

"Its more of a discussion at this point," Fleury said. "(Staff) have some final work to do this spring so we'll make a decision on the barrier then."

He said the new path is well marked as a multi-use pathway, and would be uncomfortable to access by car. It's clear the driver crossed "knowing full well it was not meant for cars," he said.

IN BRIEF

Canal open for skating

Skaters flocked to the Rideau Canal on Saturday after a grand opening that saw part of the skate way open for the first time this year.

The first day of the 46th skating season began with a 3.8-kilometre stretch of the canal open from Somerset Street to the Bank Street Bridge.

The unusually warm winter meant a late opening for the canal this season.

NCC crews have been flooding the ice in the past week to prepare it for skaters and the Winterlude celebrations that will kick off Jan. 29. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

TRADE

Wynne prepares for India trip

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne leaves this week for a 10-day trade mission to India, saying now is the time for Canada to foster more relationships with the burgeoning country.

In addition to Wynne's trip — which includes nine Liberal MPPs, 50 business leaders, 19 representatives of post-secondary institutions and three municipal leaders — she said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is planning to travel there, as is Toronto Mayor John Tory.

"While we're about to take a big step forward in India and start a new chapter in our partnership, it's the evolution of a long-standing friendship that goes back generations," she said at a recent pre-mission luncheon."This can really be the year of Canada and India."

Wynne's trip coincidentally comes on the heels of another Canadian delegation to India — the Opposition Progressive Conservatives. Patrick Brown is a friend of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and had visited the country 15 times before becoming Tory leader last year,. He returned there earlier this month along with several Tory MPPs.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and her delegation will be in India from Jan. 27 to Feb. 6. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **This can really be the year of Canada and India.**
> Premier Kathleen Wynne

"Relationships matter. Relationships open doors," Brown said over the phone Thursday as he was about to head for home. In addition to Modi, Brown met with several chief ministers and industrial leaders there.

Brown said he applauds Wynne for leading a mission to India to tap into a market where there is much interest in Ontario.

When asked if Brown's trip stole some of her thunder, Wynne said she will be taking business leaders with her to generate "real business" in Ontario.

"Patrick Brown has travelled as a private citizen to India, I'm going as the premier of Ontario," she said. "Patrick Brown can do what he chooses on his winter vacation."

Brown said he would not respond to "personal attacks."

Wynne and her delegation will travel from Jan. 27 to Feb. 6 to New Delhi, Chandigarh, Hyderabad and Mumbai and will focus on infrastructure, clean technology, clean water and the life sciences sector. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘We must stop and listen’

LA LOCHE

Leaders need to be heard to stop violence: Victim’s family

The family of a teacher who was among four people killed in shootings in northern Saskatchewan says the country must listen to the community for the kind of change that is needed to prevent similar tragedies from happening again.

The family of Adam Woods said what happened in this tiny community gives the country an “opportunity to examine ourselves and hopefully, come out better and stronger as a community and a nation. We feel sadness and remorse but rarely do we use that to fuel change.”

In a statement, the family says the leaders of the village need to be heard to prevent similar losses in the future.

“Rather than looking for someone to blame, or coming up with outsider opinions of reasons why this occurred, we must stop and listen to the voices of La Loche. The leaders and members of the community know what types of support and changes are needed. Our responsibility as a nation is to listen and respond to create lasting systemic change.”

The archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas also made an appeal Sunday for the community to find hope for its young people at a service that he estimated 250 attended at the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation.

Archbishop Murray Chatlain met with the family Saturday night of a 17-year-old boy charged in the shootings to offer support in this “nightmare experience that they’re going through and trying to offer them the support of the community.”

“We’re not blaming them. ... It’s just, this has happened and now how do we bring healing and support and try to find ways for our young people to have more hope.”

The 17-year-old boy, who can’t be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder, seven counts of attempted murder and unauthorized possession of a firearm. He is scheduled to make his first appearance Monday in Meadow Lake provincial court.

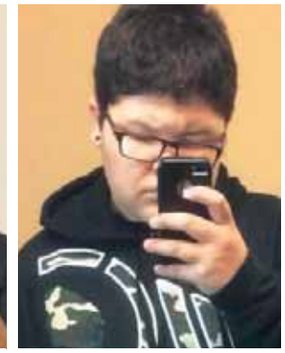
Saskatchewan RCMP say that during an eight-minute period in the La Loche Community school on Friday afternoon, nine people were shot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adam Woods CONTRIBUTED

Marie Janvier CONTRIBUTED

Dayne Fontaine CONTRIBUTED



Drayden Fontaine CONTRIBUTED

THE VICTIMS

Adam Woods, 35, who began teaching at the school in September, and teacher’s aide Marie Janvier, 21, died after they were shot at the school.

Brothers Drayden Fontaine, 13, and Dayne Fontaine, 17, were discovered by the RCMP in a home not far away.

SASKATCHEWAN

Premier seeks aid from U.S.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says his province is in touch with officials in the United States for help rebuilding after a school shooting.

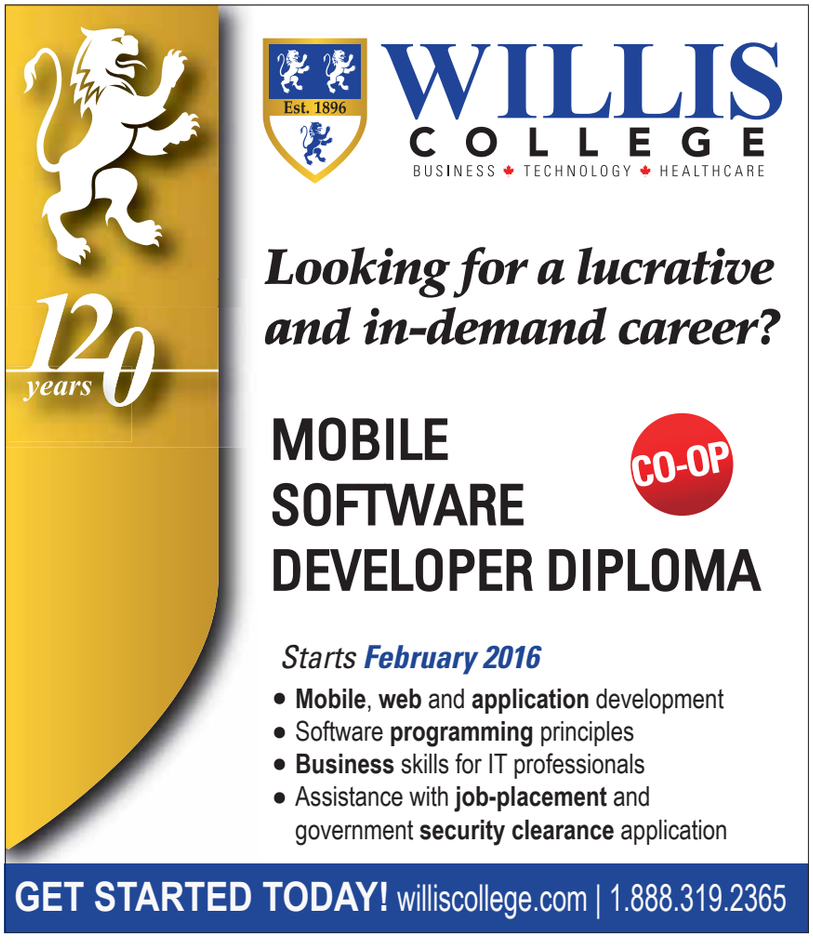
Wall said the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Bruce Heyman, called him Friday after four people were killed at the school and in a nearby home in La Loche.

He noted that, “quite tragically, the United States has more experience.”

“He offered that perhaps those communities where these types of events have occurred in the past in his country ... they might be able to provide some counsel, some support, some ideas around approaches for the days ahead.”

Wall said he has asked his deputy minister to “canvass that option with our American friends to find out perhaps what has worked better maybe than some other things.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS



SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Right to vote a clever campaign

It was the kind of savvy political strategy that politicians and lobbyists attempt to craft today: Stitch together a coalition of supporters from diverse communities, secure financial backers, mount a successful ad campaign, and earn some positive media coverage.

A group of women in Manitoba used it to win the right to vote a century ago.

The province was the first place in Canada to bring in women’s suffrage, on Jan. 28, 1916. That triggered a wave of changes — first in Western Canada and finally at the federal level in 1919. Indigenous people, it should be noted, did not get the vote federally until 1960.

Members of the Political Equality League helped recruit and rally those disparate voices with speeches, meetings and articles in the papers. They had paid organizers, and launched a major publicity blitz at the Winnipeg Stampede in 1913.

Social media and viral videos didn’t exist, of course, but in 1914 the women created major buzz with a provocative play at the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg. Their mock Parliament parodied the intransigence of Manitoba Premier Rodmond Roblin, and imagined a parallel world where women were in power.

Roblin’s government fell the following year amid scandal, and the new Liberal government finally extended the vote to women in 1916. Today, 29 per cent of the Manitoba legislature is composed of women lawmakers. Of the 14 MPs from the province, three are women.

“I thought in 100 years we’d be further along than we are, whether it’s women in politics, women on boards, women running big companies,” lamented Myrna Driedger, founder of the Nellie McClung Foundation and a Conservative member of the Manitoba legislature.

Still, Driedger said she’s felt in recent years that there is a new energy among women in Canada, a conviction that they must have a seat at the decision-making table. Earlier this month, 600 women gathered in Winnipeg at a business networking event called “SHE Day.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fiona Bak views documents related to the passing of a 1916 amendment to the Manitoba Elections Act.

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 People dig out their cars in Alexandria, Va., on Sunday. Millions of Americans were preparing to dig themselves out Sunday after a mammoth blizzard with hurricane-force winds and record-setting snowfall brought much of the East Coast to an icy standstill. CLIFF OWEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
2 Children slide in the snow in Central Park on Sunday in New York. FRANCOIS XAVIER MARIT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
3 Charlie Katshir, 15, sleds in Siebert Park in Camp Hill, Pa., on Saturday. MARK PYNES/PENNLIVE.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blizzard breaks single day snowfall records

UNITED STATES

Single-day highs set across east coast amid hurricane winds

Millions of Americans began digging out Sunday from a mammoth blizzard that set a new single-day snowfall record in Washington and New York City. The hurricane-force winds and whiteout conditions gave way to blinding sunshine and temperatures slightly above freezing, promising a gentle thawing-out.

The timing could not have been better for East Coast states: The heaviest snow began falling Friday evening, and tapered off just before midnight Saturday. Millions heeded calls to stay home, enabling road crews to clear snow and ice.

New York and Baltimore began lifting travel restrictions and hearty souls ventured out on snow-choked streets, while mass transit systems up and down the coast gradually restored normal service.

The air travel picture remained complicated after 7,000 weekend flights were cancelled: United Airlines said limited service might begin later Sunday in New York City, but airports in the Washington D.C. area were likely to remain closed Sunday, and other airlines began cutting Monday service.

The massive snowstorm brought both Washington, D.C., and New York to a stop, dumping as much as 90 centimetres of snow and stranding tens of thousands of travellers. At least 18 deaths were blamed on the weather, resulting from car crashes, shovelling snow and hypothermia.

In New York, the storm dropped 68.1 centimetres in Central Park, the second-most recorded since 1869 and just short of the record 68.3 centimetres set in February 2006. The 67.6 centimetres that fell on Saturday, however, was the city's record for a single day. At Washington's National Zoo, 56.9 centimetres fell, beating the 53.3 centimetres that fell on Jan. 28, 1922.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Trump bashes Beck's Cruz support

Donald Trump is so confident about the loyalty of his supporters that he predicted Saturday they would stick with him even if he shot someone.

The Republican presidential front-runner bashed conservative commentator Glenn Beck's support of rival Ted Cruz and welcomed a figure from the GOP establishment, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, in rallies nine days before the Iowa caucuses open voting in the 2016 campaign.

"I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters, OK?" Trump told an enthusiastic audience at a Christian school, Dordt College. "It's like incredible."

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Beck campaigned for Ted Cruz and held little back in going after Trump. "The time for silliness and reality show tactics has passed," Beck charged at a Cruz rally.

Days after Trump was endorsed by tea party favourite Sarah Palin, Cruz flashed his own conservative muscle during a rally in Ankeny, Iowa. Rep. Steve King, an Iowa Republican and conservative firebrand, and Iowa social conservative leader Bob Vander Plaats encouraged local Republicans to unite behind Cruz.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EGYPT

Eight face hearing after botched repair on Tut mask

King Tut has been dead for thousands of years, but his power remains. After a botched repair of his burial mask, prosecutors ordered eight workers to court for "gross negligence." The 3,300-year old mask, whose beard was accidentally knocked off and hastily glued on with epoxy in 2014, was scratched and damaged during the repair work, prosecutors said Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCC CCN Canada

LeBreton
REDEVELOPMENT OF
LeBreton Flats

Public Consultation

The National Capital Commission (NCC) invites you to participate in a public consultation on the redevelopment of LeBreton Flats, one of the most significant urban development sites in the core of Canada's Capital.

Tell us what you think of the two proposals for this signature site.

PARTICIPATE IN PERSON:
Canadian War Museum
1 Vimy Place, Ottawa

Tuesday, January 26, 2016
Open House: 4 pm to 9:30 pm
Presentations: 6 pm
Questions and Answers: 7:20 pm

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Open House: 8 am to 9:30 pm
Presentations: 6 pm
Questions and Answers: 7:20 pm

PARTICIPATE ONLINE:
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Complete the **online questionnaire** (which includes supplementary proposal information) available from **January 26 (4 pm) to February 8 (midnight), 2016.**

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Gap grows between oil and pump prices

Prices at the gas pump fell four per cent in December, but crude prices fell by more than three times that amount during that time.

Gasoline prices in Canada averaged $1.02 per litre last month, when crude averaged $37 US a barrel. But in February 2009, when oil sold for $39, the average price for gas was about 15 per cent cheaper at 85 cents a litre.

The Bank of Canada noted, in its Monetary Policy Report last week, a growing gap between oil prices and pump prices in the second half of 2015, when crude fell sharply. Oil prices have fallen by 75 per cent since mid-2014.

The companies who refine crude into gasoline are taking a bigger piece of the pie, said Robyn Allan, an independent economist in Vancouver.

Between 2000 and 2014, refining and marketing margins averaged 17.7 cents a litre. But in 2015, the average margins grew to 28.9 cents per litre, she found. That average refinery margin grew to 32.3 cents per litre in the first few weeks of this year, as oil prices fell rapidly, she noted.

> **Big Oil is benefitting ... at the expense of the Canadian economy.**
> Robyn Allan

"Big Oil is benefitting from consumers and businesses at the expense of the Canadian economy."

Oil companies are keeping more profits to refine the oil into gasoline in order to offset what they are losing in production profit, which increases prices at the pump, said Roger McKnight, chief petroleum analyst for En-Pro International.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Impact of low loonie

All sectors don't feel pinch

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The Canadian dollar is hovering around 70 cents against the U.S. dollar after reaching a 13-year low last week. Such a low loonie has economists sounding the alarm about declining business and consumer confidence.

While the effects of the low dollar are complex and affecting many different parts of the Canadian economy, different regions of the country will be impacted differently.

Here, we take a look at the effects of the low loonie on cities from coast-to coast in different economic sectors.

PRICE OF FOOD

Canadians are already feeling the effects of the faltering loonie at the grocery store. According to researchers at the University of Guelph, the sudden currency drop in 2015 led to fruits, vegetables and nuts increasing in price by up to 10 per cent. This year, that could increase by another 4.5 per cent. For example, cauliflower prices have tripled, with a head now selling for about $8 in some Toronto stores. That means the average household will spend $345 more this year than last year for the same food, researchers say.

MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS

Conventional wisdom is that a lower Canadian dollar is better for companies that export a lot of their products to the U.S. In Ontario, where manufacturing was particularly hard-hit during the recession, manufacturing sales are up by 21 per cent over that period, excluding petroleum refining. In Nova Scotia, lobster exports — worth $385 million annually — will also see a boost. The lower dollar can also make Canada more attractive for foreign investment.

JOBS

In certain areas, the low dollar helps employment. Cities with strong film and television industries, such as Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, are disproportionately benefitting compared to cities such as Winnipeg and Edmonton where that sector is less prominent. Provinces with a strong agriculture sector, such as Manitoba, and B.C., are doing well. That's due to more exports south of the border and low commodity prices. But other sectors, such as manufacturing, are slower to react.

TOURISM

The low dollar may have some Canadian families reconsidering that trip to Florida they were hoping to take this winter. But it's good news for popular Canadian tourism destinations. American tourists enticed at the possibility of a cheap vacation have more reason to travel north of the border. Whistler, B.C. had its busiest November ever in terms of nights booked, up 10 per cent from a year ago, said Tourism Whistler spokeswoman Patricia Westerholm. The pace of booking heading into the holiday period outperformed the last two years. Anecdotally, businesses are seeing an increase in the number of American visitors to the resort, she said.

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, January 25, 2016

Sorry, Spidey
Superheroes aside, new research shows a gecko is the biggest animal physically able to scale walls with sticky feet.

THE BIG QUESTION

Could Donald Trump really become the U.S. president?

If you're a betting person, you probably shouldn't put your money on him. Real-estate and reality-TV magnate Donald Trump is estimated to have 45 per cent odds of winning the Republican Party nomination on the website Predictwise, which analyzes "prediction markets" — basically, people who are betting on the outcomes of real-life events, whether it's the winner of Wimbledon or the future occupant of the White House. Such markets, research shows, tend to be more accurate than opinion polls at guessing election results. So the possibility of the brash (and, some say, bigoted) Trump winning the nomination is very real: The next most popular candidate, Marco Rubio, is a distant second at 31 per cent. Ted Cruz is trailing at just 11. However, if Trump ends up in November's general election, it's likely himself he'll be calling a loser. Gamblers have placed just 16 per cent odds on a Trump takeover of the Oval Office.

Keep reading: Ottawa media isn't dead yet

COLLINS' CAPITAL

Steve Collins

The latest shrinkage of Ottawa's local media scene, the merger of the Citizen and Sun newsrooms, accompanied by a dozen immediate layoffs, might strike some as slightly less worrisome than, say, the price of cauliflower, things being tough all over after all, but it's bad news for news.

Corporate owner Postmedia (which told the federal Competition Bureau it would keep the publications separate when it bought the Sun) announced that their reporters will henceforth write stories to go into both papers, with a little editing for flavour, to cut costs and "duplication."

What the company sees as redundancy, though, others might see as a unique set of eyes and ears, hooked up to a unique brain. And running carbon-copy stories in two papers strikes me as perhaps the most counterintuitive of cures for "duplication."

Fewer journalists can generally be expected to produce less journalism (or less excellent journalism if they're simply spread too thin over too many assignments) and provide less scrutiny of city hall, courts, police and local business. And fewer is what we keep getting. Add this latest development to 20 or so local job cuts at CTV Ottawa and CFRA in November, and the disappearance of CBC's local weekend newscasts.

Pile it on top of the all-too-regular rounds of layoffs and buyouts over the past few years, the demise of the Sunday Citizen and the evening newscasts at A Channel (now CTV Two), and it sometimes seems a wonder there are still desks left to empty.

Media job losses don't happen quietly. The departed are professional communicators. Last week's Sun layoffs unfolded on Twitter in real time with classy sign-offs from affected journalists, typically expressing their gratitude to colleagues and for the chance to do the job they loved.

Their colleagues at other media certainly notice and report the cuts, always with the keen awareness that next quarter they may be the ones packing their notebooks.

The newspaper business has supposedly been dying for as long as I've been in it. I've seen a lot of talented, passionate people either jump or get pushed for reasons that had nothing to do with their work. When every day is the apocalypse, you get used to it.

And it's not all doom out there. Metro Ottawa actually hired more reporters last year, and journalists are still far from an endangered species in this media-saturated capital.

New J-school graduates keep spilling out of Algonquin and Carleton, eager to get their hearts stomped in a tough business. (Both schools do hedge their bets on where their students may actually find work, with schools of "Media and Design" and "Journalism and Communications").

Nobody can tell this next generation of journalists with any certainty what form the news media they work in will take, but my guess is the job will still include making calls, getting their butts to an accident scene or a committee meeting, and informing citizens about their city. In the meantime, it's back to work for the survivors. Keep reading. We've got things to tell you.

Steve Collins lives in Ottawa. He might also be the guy behind you on the bus, pretending not to notice you're reading this. Act casual.

metroview

There are reasons the Oscars are #sowhite. Let's fix one of them.

Deena Douara Karim
Metro | Toronto

When I was a teacher, I wrote an assignment that examined social justice through probability. It was called Is It Fishy or No? "A student complains a teacher is unfair because she always calls on girls. Seven girls and three boys keep their hands up. Of 100 questions, the teacher called on girls 73 times. Is it fishy?"

I could have used #OscarsSoWhite, examining the racial disparity in nominations that's prompted calls to boycott. Of the major categories, 41 nominees were white, one was Asian and one was Latino.

While the focus has been on black underrepresentation (13 per cent of the American population), missing too are Latinos (17), Asians (six) and Arabs (one). We're all in the room, but how many have their hands up (apply, audition, send scripts) and don't get called on by the industry?

From a probability stance, it's not clear there were enough flawless films made by, about or starring non-whites to establish fishiness, nor to determine the past two years amount to a Hollywood trend (especially since the Golden Globes did include Straight Outta Compton, Will Smith and Idris Elba).

The useful question is not if the academy is racist, but whether it matters that most nominees are white, and if so, how does that get addressed?

First, it does matter. Minorities have different stories to tell. Different sensibilities and styles, perhaps. Different inspiration and youth to inspire. Stereotypes to belie and shatter.

As UCLA's Bunche Center phrased it: "When media images are rooted primarily in stereotype, inequality is normalized and is more likely to be reinforced over time."

There are institutional barriers preventing people of colour from success in media, but one that's rarely discussed is self-imposed. The odds are already against non-whites. Maybe we should reconsider our values and priorities.

There are some commonalities across the immigrant experience, but I know Arab and South Asian communities best. We value physicians, engineers, pharmacists and accountants — in that order and above all else. Professions of respect, but not influence; careers that are invisible in a time when we need to have our hands up.

If our stories aren't told, we need to write them. Communities unhappy with what is reflected back when we tune in, pay up and vote should be encouraging, admiring and granting scholarships for paths that are riskier, less cushy, but far more visible. Journalism and production. Filmmaking and screenwriting. We need to be in and around politics — where there are far too few minorities.

What images do we have to compete with Osama bin Laden's disheveled beard?

In a class of 10, if seven girls have their hands up and three boys do, how can we get the rest of the boys to wake up?

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Maximize your investment

NEST EGG

You need to take advantage of all options available

Michelle Williams

If you're making RSP contributions, you'll have to make some decisions about where to invest. Here's a quick look at the most common investments and how risky they are:

Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs)
This is the most conservative way to invest.

"These certificates are issued by banks and trust companies, offering a secured rate of return over a fixed period of time," says Kathleen Peace, partner and wealth advisor at Woodgate Financial. "It's a secure investment that guarantees 100 per cent of the original principal that you invest."

The investment earns interest at a fixed or variable rate that is generally higher than savings-account rates, with a limited guarantee of up to $100,000 per GIC provided by Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC). However, the rate of return compared to other investment securities is relatively low.

Bonds
Less conservative than GICs but generally not as risky as stocks (with the exception of high-yield or junk bonds).

"A bond is a debt investment: you loan money to a corporation or government, which borrows from you for a defined period of time. You earn interest at a variable or fixed interest rate, essentially becoming a creditor of the bond issuer," explains Peace.

Like GICs, the risk can be lower compared to some other investments vehicles, but so is the return.

Stocks
Typically riskier than bonds or GICs. Also known as shares or equities, stocks are parcels of a company that you can invest in.

"As an owner, you have a claim on assets and earnings, but you're also at risk of losing money when stocks go down," says Peace.

Some stocks are naturally riskier than others. However, the rate of return can be higher than other investments.

Mutual Funds
Pools of securities like stocks or bonds within a sector, such as real estate or mining. They can also be diversified across all industry sectors, countries and types of securities.

The risk factor and rate of return would vary depending on the fund, explains Peace. An investor might choose a mutual fund for a more diverse portfolio.

When it comes to investing, a diverse portfolio helps reduce your risk. ISTOCK

WHY DIVERSIFY?

The logic is simple: don't keep all your eggs in one basket.

Investments can react differently to market, global, regional or industry upheaval; one investment can rise while another can fall. A diverse portfolio reduces your risk by helping to keep the overall value of your holdings in balance.

"Consider a portfolio made up solely of hospitality-industry stocks," says wealth advisor Kathleen Peace. "If global growth slows and people don't have enough money for travel, hospitality-industry earnings may suffer. As a consequence, your portfolio could experience a significant downturn and you could lose money. By comparison, imagine a portfolio holding both hospitality and digital-media stocks. The digital-media stocks may outperform during the same global downturn as people increasingly use technology and digital entertainment as a substitute for travel."

Diversifying doesn't guarantee against loss, she adds, but it goes a long way toward minimizing your risk.

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Greta Gerwig taps Saoirse Ronan as the star of her directorial debut Lady Bird

Over the next three months, **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** will help a recent grad drowning in debt and a charitable young professional to balance their budget, pay down loans and save for their future

Make a strategy for saving

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metro*money*

THE CHALLENGE: Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie has 11 weeks remaining to transform the finances of two recent graduates — Annick, 24, and Yolanda, 27 — by helping them get out of debt, save money and track their spending. This week we'll focus on Yolanda.

THIS WEEK: A web communications specialist, Yolanda makes $42,000 per year and spends $750 a month on rent. Her goals are to save a $25,000 down payment for a condo purchase in three years, grow her retirement savings and go on a trip each year.

NEXT WEEK: Annick owes money on her credit cards, to her family, and the government for her student loans. Who should she pay off first?

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Yolanda has traded in a higher paycheque for a job that she's passionate about with a national charity that helps children in developing countries. She's learned to live within her means, but we've recently discovered she's a binge saver. Yolanda contributes regularly to her RRSP and TFSA, and then in moments of weakness, drains the accounts for clothes, travel and entertainment.

In our money coaching session last week, Yolanda learned that every time she withdraws from her RRSP before retirement, she loses the contribution room permanently and pays a withholding tax to the government — ouch!

Her TFSA withdrawals are less of a problem because she can retain her contribution room and doesn't pay taxes when she withdraws her money.

In both cases, however, dipping into her RRSP or TFSA accounts prematurely means Yolanda won't capitalize on each account's tax-advantages and she won't grow her down payment and retirement savings.

THE LESSON: Yolanda is using her RRSP and TFSA like a bank account rather than for long-term savings.

Yolanda has the right idea, which is to save through regular monthly contributions to her RRSP and TFSA, but she's over contributing and not leaving enough cash in her chequing account to pay for day-to-day expenses. So when something like a wedding creeps up, she's forced to liquidate her RRSP and TFSA to pay for a gift.

Yolanda needs to contribute less to her RRSP and TFSA to free up monthly cash flow for regular expenses. She will drop her RRSP contribution to $150 from $200 and TFSA contribution to $250 from $350. This action will free up $150 per month. Yolanda will transfer $50 of that money into a savings account for smaller one-off purchases.

This plan ensures Yolanda uses the right accounts for her short-term spending and long-term saving.

$ MONEY

A surprise

After closer examination of Yolanda's finances, we learned that her defined contribution pension is worth three times what she'd originally thought thanks to her employer matching her contributions to the plan.

Assets	
RRSP	$225
TFSA	$725
Pension	$3,850
Total Assets:	**$4,800**

Liabilities	
Visa	$0
Master Card	$0
Total Liabilities:	**$0**

Net Worth:	**$4,800**

BUDGETS

Set goals and take control of your life

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

With a new year in front of you, you can keep doing what you've always done. But then you shouldn't expect a different outcome. Or you can set some goals and do something different.

If you don't know what you want, if you don't lay a plan for getting from one point in your life to another, you're just wandering in the woods blindfolded. You're probably going to tumble down a steep slope, trip over some roots, or fall in a hole. You will get hurt. Wouldn't it just be easier to take off the blindfold?

You must be clear about what you want. If you want to buy a home, what kind do you want? Where do you want to buy? And how much are you prepared to go into the hole?

Know that you'll move at a different pace for goals depending on what else is going on in your life. What's most important is to keep moving forward. If you've got kids don't ignore the educational savings plan. Putting just a little away each month moves you towards the goal. Ditto saving for retirement and building an emergency fund. If you want to get your debt paid off you need to make a plan to get it gone by a specific date.

Let's say you decided to take 36 months to get out of debt. Out of nowhere comes a windstorm and half the shingles blow off your roof. Hey, that's life. You have to be prepared to adjust your plan as life happens, keeping your goals front and centre. So you fix the roof and then you get right back on the debt-repayment plan.

You can work towards more than one goal at a time. But you need to be prioritizing as you go. No, you can't buy a house, have a baby and go back to school all at the same time. What's your Goal No. 1?

Don't expect the journey to where you're going to always be a smooth one. Life happens, and you have to be flexible enough to cope.

Determination is what separates those who are serious about achieving their goals from those who are just dreaming.

Your goals need to be specific. If you want to buy a home, what kind of home do you want? If you have kids, how much will you have to save for their education? ISTOCK

REPORT CARD WHICH PROVINCES GOT TOP MARKS IN HISTORY?

The majority of Canada's provinces and territories have been assigned high marks on a new report card on history education. Historica Canada looked at social studies and history curricula from grades 7 through 12 across the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE METHOD

Evaluations were conducted for three main factors: curriculum content; development of critical and creative thinking skills; and the amount of mandatory Canadian history content at junior, intermediate and senior levels. The report card noted that curricula changes in recent years "have demonstrated the need to better incorporate diverse perspectives," such as those focused on indigenous peoples, gender and women's history and multiculturalism. It also outlines recommendations for further improvements, such as mandating at least one Canadian history credit as a high school graduation requirement, and establishing a clear balance between national and provincial/regional history.

OVERVIEW OF FINAL GRADES

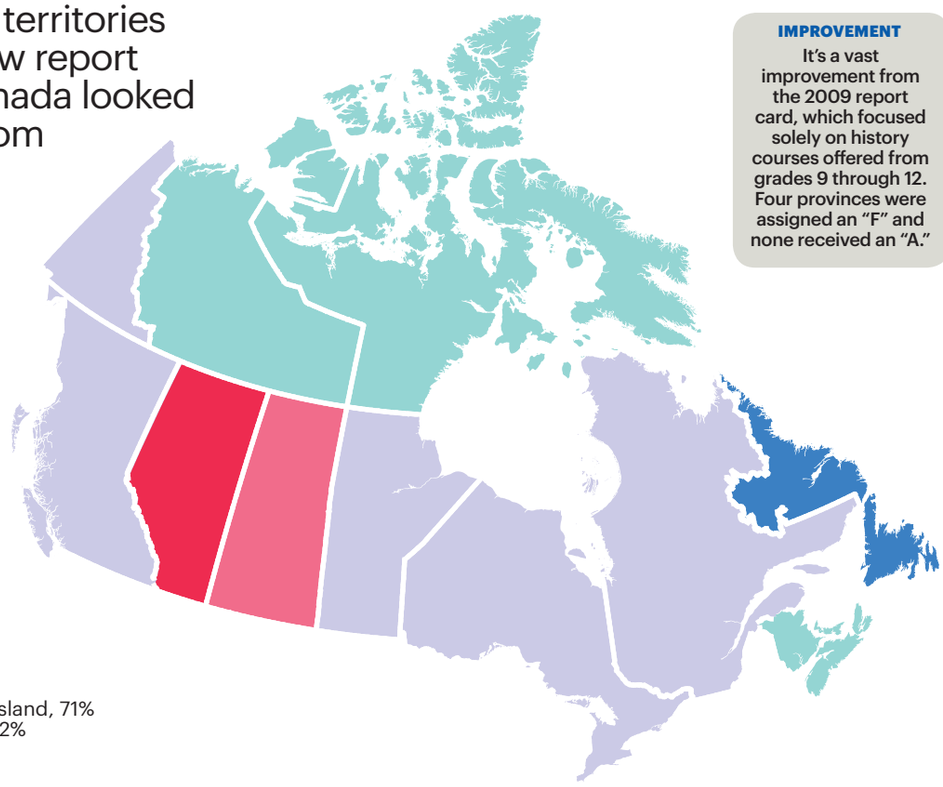
A- Ontario, 82%; British Columbia, 81%; Quebec, 80%; Manitoba, 80%, Yukon, 81%

B Newfoundland and Labrador, 75% (anglophone)

B- Nova Scotia, 73%; New Brunswick, 71%; Prince Edward Island, 71% (all anglophone); Northwest Territories, 72%; Nunavut, 72%

C+ Saskatchewan, 69%

C- Alberta, 62%



IMPROVEMENT

It's a vast improvement from the 2009 report card, which focused solely on history courses offered from grades 9 through 12. Four provinces were assigned an "F" and none received an "A."

TECHNOLOGY

Meet Canada's 'beer whisperer'

Andrew MacIntosh understands beer in ways few others can comprehend — on the microscopic level, in its broader historical sweep, and in its sensual appeal.

Though he's reluctant to use the term, he is on his way to becoming Nova Scotia's beer whisperer — part academic, part business mentor — using science to troubleshoot the challenges facing the province's "exploding" craft brewery industry.

The professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax is an expert on fermentation, and is also studying to become a cicerone — the brewing equivalent of a sommelier.

MacIntosh is part of the new Canadian Institute of Fermentation Technology, established last summer to help grow the brewing, distilling and wine industries. Supported by public and private funding, the institute offers scientific analysis of products using gear that no small business could afford. It also provides help with improving methods of making wine, beer and spirits.

So far, much of MacIntosh's work has been focused on craft beer. "This is a very exciting area because it is absolutely booming, not only in the quality of craft brewing but also in the selection," he says.

Inside a laboratory stuffed with high-tech equipment, MacIntosh uses a microscope to spy on the tiny yeast cells that convert sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide — the magical microbiology behind fermentation. With great precision, MacIntosh is using his skills to instruct craft brewers on how to adjust recipes and improve production.

Professor MacIntosh. DARREN CALABRESE /THE CANADIAN PRESS

However, much of what the institute does is top secret — for competitive reasons.

Among other things, MacIntosh and his colleagues are working on a new method for making sparkling wine. They are also trying to find a cost-effective means of measuring alcohol in distilled products, and shortening the lagering process.

As well, the labs have already been used to improve a Nova Scotia-made device called the Fizz Whiz, which gives craft brewers a high level of precision when adding carbonation.

"It's very fancy," says MacIntosh. "(The inventor) is looking to launch that across Canada."

The institute is an offshoot of the Canadian Fisheries Institute of Technology, a 30-year-old endeavour that continues to support the seafood and nutritional supplements industries.

"Unfortunately, fisheries industry research is heading downhill," says MacIntosh. "So we looked at the other industries that are up-and-coming in Nova Scotia and the Maritimes."

In the past decade, the number of craft breweries in the province has grown from less than 10 to more than 30.

Amid the growing competition, craft brewers are turning to MacIntosh and his colleagues to perfect their suds.

"I'm a beer enthusiast and I really like the analytical side," says MacIntosh, an accomplished home brewer who prefers stout with a lot of caramel at this time of year. "Working with these companies has been quite rewarding." THE CANADIAN PRESS

No purchase necessary. One entry per person, per day. Contest open to residents of the cities of Vancouver, BC, Calgary and Edmonton, AB, Winnipeg, MB, and Ottawa and Toronto, ON, and Halifax, NS who have attained the age of majority in their province of residence as at the start of the Contest Period. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in each city. Thirty five (35) prizes are available to be won in each market, consisting of two (2) passes to a screening of Pride and Prejudice and Zombies on February, 3 2016. Approximate retail value of each prize is $25 CDN. Each selected entrant must correctly answer, unaided, a mathematical skill-testing question to be declared a winner. Contest Period opens at 12:01 am ET on Jan. 22, 2016 and closes at 11:59 pm ET on Jan. 29, 2016. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.metronews.ca/contests

metro SPORTS

Rickie Fowler won the Abu Dhabi Championship, shooting a 3-under 69 Sunday for a one-stroke win over Thomas Pieters

Broncos ride swarming defence into Super Bowl

NFL PLAYOFFS

Manning bests Brady in what could be their final meeting

AFC championship 2018

No, you're not seeing things.

That really was Peyton Manning lumbering his way down the field for a 12-yard gain and a first down Sunday. And thanks to his defence, that will be Manning — the 39-year-old quarterback who was supposed to be on his way to a retirement party — and not Tom Brady playing in the Super Bowl two weeks from now.

Ol' No. 18 engineered a 20-18 victory over the Patriots — not settled until Broncos cornerback Bradley Roby picked off Brady's pass on a two-point attempt that would have tied it with 12 seconds left.

The Patriots had to go for two after Brady hit Rob Gronkowski in the back of the end zone because Stephen Gostkowski missed his first extra point in 524 tries in the first quarter.

Aqib Talib stepped in front of Brady's pass and deflected it skyward.

Roby, who forced the game-changing fumble in last week's victory over Pittsburgh, made the pick. The Broncos (14-4) recovered the onside kick and the celebration began. Manning is now 6-11 in his vaunted series against Brady, but 3-1 when it has counted the most — with the AFC title on the line.

"Well, it's been a special rivalry over the course of my career against the Patriots, the entire organization," Manning said. "To play four times in the AFC championship with so much on the line, those games have been very special."

Manning surpassed his boss, John Elway, as the oldest quarterback to take his team to the Super Bowl. The Broncos will play Arizona or Carolina, who met later in the NFC title game.

Whether it's been Manning lining up under centre, or Brock Osweiler, who took snaps while Manning was injured for six weeks toward the end of the season, the Broncos have depended on a defence that gave up the fewest yards this season and came up with game-saving plays time and again.

Von Miller finished with 2-1/2 sacks and an interception. The Broncos harassed Brady all day. He finished 27-for-56 for 310 yards. After being shut out twice inside the Denver 20 late in the fourth quarter, Brady lobbed a 40-yard pass to a double-covered Gronkowski to keep a desperation drive going on fourth-and-10.

Then, on fourth-and-goal from the four with 12 seconds left, Brady found Gronkowski — again double-covered — in the back corner of the end zone. The tight end stepped in front of Chris Harris Jr. for the catch, and the game came down to one play.

The Broncos defence made it once again, and the franchise is now headed to its eighth Super Bowl. This marks No. 4 for Manning, who could become the first quarterback to lead two different franchises to titles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski is tackled by Broncos Shiloh Keo, bottom left, Josh Bush and Danny Trevathan on Sunday in Denver. DUSTIN BRADFORD/GETTY IMAGES

AIR ATTACK

Manning completed 17 of his 32 passing attempts for 176 yards and two TDs.

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the NFC title game.

NHL

Senators ruff up Rangers

Bobby Ryan scored the winner in the Ottawa Senators' 3-0 victory over the New York Rangers — and he helped a local family get a new pet in the process.

Ryan, who gave Ottawa the only offence it needed 19:40 into the second period, noticed a sign held by a young boy during warm-up that read: "Bobby, dad said if you score we get a puppy."

"I felt more pressure with that than after saying what I said last game," said Ryan. "I wanted to get the poor kid a dog."

Ryan called out the Senators' poor play following their 6-3 loss to the New Jersey Devils Friday night. He was happy to see his team turn things around Sunday.

SUNDAY In Ottawa

3	0
SENATORS	RANGERS

"When you put yourself out there and you make the comments, they're going to echo throughout the room and who am I to say it and ask these young guys to do it if I'm not doing it? So I felt like I did what I said I was going to do and I thought everybody followed along," he said.

Craig Anderson stopped 35 shots to pick up his 32nd career shutout and third of the season.

Mike Hoffman and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for Ottawa (23-20-6), who snapped a two-game losing streak.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senators goalie Craig Anderson makes a save in front of the Rangers' Chris Kreider. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

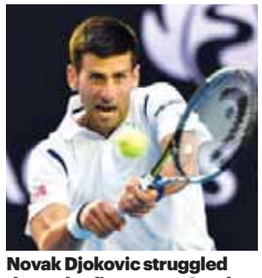
Djokovic survives error-filled match

Novak Djokovic committed 100 unforced errors yet still managed to advance to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over Gilles Simon at the Australian Open on Sunday.

The world's top-ranked player reached the quarters in a 27th consecutive major, equalling Jimmy Connors at No. 2 in that streak and trailing only Roger Federer's record of 36.

Also on Sunday, Federer beat David Goffin 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Novak Djokovic struggled through a five-setter Sunday. SAEED KHAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Vonn adds to record haul

Another day in Cortina, another record for Lindsey Vonn.

The American won a World Cup super-G Sunday for her 11th career victory in Cortina, breaking the Italian resort record of retired Austrian standout Renate Goetschl.

By winning a downhill on Saturday, Vonn eclipsed Annemarie Moser-Proell's mark of 36 career wins in skiing's marquee event.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIGURE SKATING

Chan: Quad jumps cutting into quality

Patrick Chan has always been known as the total package — big jumps coupled with intricate spins and a skating ability that is considered the best in the world.

So after his 18-month hiatus, Canada's three-time world champion was dismayed to return to find his sport dominated by quadruple jumps.

And the morning after he won his eighth gold medal at the Canadian figure skating champion, Chan waded back into the quad controversy.

"It's getting a little ridiculous. It's like the slam dunk contest, that's what it's becoming," Chan said. "I will be dead honest, I think with my experience and credibility at this point, I can say already with the men doing three quads, the quality of skating is diminished."

The 25-year-old from Toronto landed two huge quads in his long program Saturday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Shrimp & Orzo Skillet Dinner

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Start your week with this elegant yet easy one-pot wonder. Both orzo and shrimp cook quickly, making them a perfect combo for weeknight meals.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

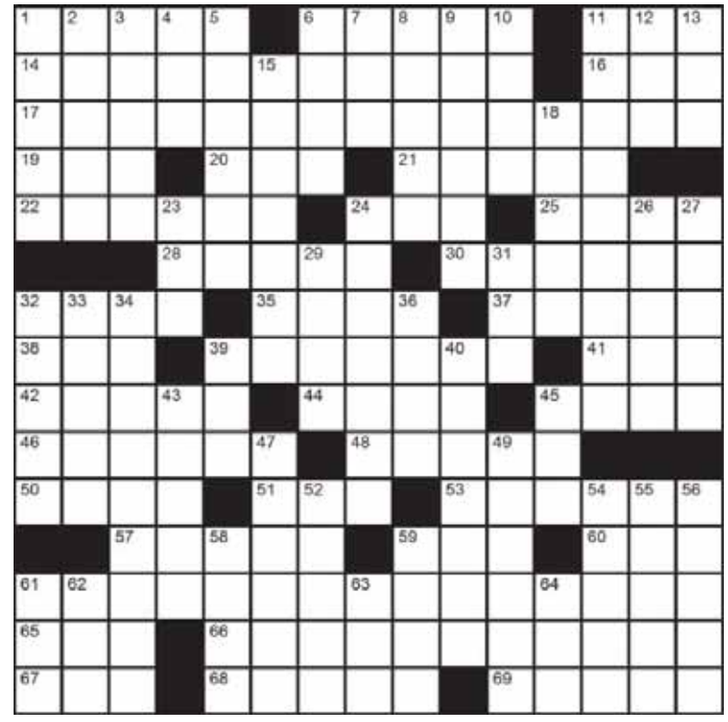
Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 14 oz can of diced tomatoes
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup orzo
- 1 lb cleaned and de-veined shrimp
- Big handful of fresh basil, sliced
- 1/2 cup feta, crumbled

Directions
1. In a large skillet, sauté onion and garlic in oil over medium heat until they smell great and soften up. Add the oregano and cook for another minute.
2. Pour in stock, vinegar and tomatoes and taste for seasoning. Add salt and pepper.
3. Now add the orzo and allow everything to simmer for 15 minutes.
4. Add your shrimp and cook for another 3 to 5 minutes, or until the shrimp turn pink and opaque.
5. Sprinkle basil and feta over top and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Country singer K.T.
6. Raised flatlands
11. Beaver's construction
14. Sir Ian Fleming, for one: 2 wds.
16. Wood sorrel
17. Fictional rural setting of "Hee Haw" (Trivia! The long-running variety show was created by two Canadians, Frank Peppiatt and John Aylesworth): 2 wds.
19. 'Hect' add-on
20. Anonymous [abbr.]
21. Acidic, such as a swimming pool's water quality = _ _ _
22. Stand firm
24. Game: French
25. Prefix to 'legal'
28. Hanson member
30. Actress Charlize
32. 17th Greek letters
35. Swallow
37. _ _ the side of caution
38. _ de Cologne
39. Canadian singer/actress Ms. Cox
41. 'Verb' suffix
42. "The Jetsons" pet
44. Decorative pin holder
45. Otolaryngologists, commonly
46. "Flashdance" (1983) song
48. Rope fibres
50. Close-fitting
51. Li'l reply
53. Really busy
57. Battle royal
59. Lubricate
60. Prefix meaning 'Ear'
61. Books business: 2 wds.
65. Pres. Eisenhower
66. Charlie _ (Radio newscaster on the show at #17-Across)
67. Ireland airline, with Lingus
68. Architectural framework
69. Demeanors

DOWN
1. Mr. Schindler (Liam Neeson role in 1993)
2. Fern 'seed'
3. Ancient harps
4. Hostel
5. Without fanfare or difficulty: 2 wds.
6. Biblical heirs, with The
7. Kay's follower
8. Sashay
9. Invite to a movie and dinner: 2 wds.
10. Place into storage
11 Canadian entertainer who created/played the iconic character at #66-Across: 2 wds.
12. Do stage work
13. Might
15. Wine's year
18. Ontario attraction, _ Canada Village
23. '_' _ for Iberville
24. Reusable blue kitchen wipes in a hexagon box: letter + wd.
26. Hen's home
27. Author Ms. Rice's
29. Dawn: French
31. Schemer's chuckle, when repeated
32. Paper quantities
33. _ _ effect on
34. Be larger in quantity
36. "Charmed" sister
39. _ _ 180
40. Reach for the stars: 2 wds.
43. Orion's brightest star
45. Keyboard key
47. Conqueror of Gaul
49. "The Taking of _ 1 2 3" (2009)
52. Beatles jacket style
54. Put _ _ (Get working)
55. "Your show's starting!": 2 wds.
56. Movie-makers Joel and Ethan
58. Elevator, in England
59. Burden
61. Ms. Zadora
62. Arthur Godfrey's instrument, for short
63. Smartness figs.
64. "Either he goes _ _ go!"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You want to get away from your usual environment and explore places you haven't been in a while. But make sure your wanderings are done with by midweek as journeys may be unpredictable later on.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It is possible that you will come into money. However, it is also possible that you will waste money on things you don't need. Maybe you'll do both and end up with the same amount!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
An affair of the heart will go extremely well. On the work front, however, be wary of someone who approaches you with a proposition that sounds too good to be true.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Try not to lose sight of the big picture. Step back from what you are doing and make sure you don't drift off course. Also, don't let anyone undermine your confidence.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What comes easy to you over the next few days won't come so easy later on, so make an effort to get the tough stuff out of the way. If a project of some kind no longer inspires you, end it and move on.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will have to make a tough choice between your family and your career. But it does not have to be one thing or the other — there are always ways to balance competing needs.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Over the next few days you will get a more balanced view of what is taking place in the world. If an authority figure tells you that certain opinions are not allowed, tell them to get lost. Think and speak as you please.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some sort of material gain is likely but don't take your good fortune for granted. Remember that you always get more from what you own and earn if you don't grasp it too tightly.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
So many things will go right for you that you may find it hard to believe your luck. What's the catch? There isn't one, so stop worrying and start doing things you really enjoy.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make an effort but make sure that what you do is primarily for yourself. Because you're so reliable employers may try to shift some of their workload to you. Don't let them!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will be immensely popular — everyone wants to get close to you. Having said which, watch what you say and do when people in positions of authority are around — they could easily turn against you.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
People you deal with in a creative capacity will be hugely impressed by your ideas and your willingness to work with others. Just make sure you get full credit for your input.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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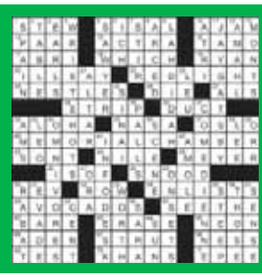
FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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7	6	2	1	9	3	5	8	4

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Classes start Feb 22

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